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Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2016

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Heather Thomas embraces a neighbour minutes after she emerged from her car to inspect her home, which survived a wildfire that claimed some 2,400 structures in Fort McMurray.

KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO



Home

On Wednesday, thousands returned to Fort McMurray, unsure of what they'd find **metroNEWS**

MTS SALE

Hold, please



Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

Premier Brian Pallister may be holding on the line to see Bell Canada purchase Manitoba Telecom Services (MTS), but most Manitobans would hit end on that call.

The results of a new Angus Reid Institute survey of 450 Manitoba residents shows 61 per cent disapprove of the proposed \$3.9-billion deal.

Fewer than one in five surveyed say it would be a good thing for the province as a whole.

Fifty-three per cent of respondents believe the sale will increase prices, and 48 per cent say the reduction in marketplace competitiveness would be a bad thing.

If approved, the deal would send MTS customers to Bell and Telus.

The only positive outcome surveyed Manitobans expect is in "investment in communications infrastructure."

That's no surprise, as Bell promised to invest \$1 billion over five years to improve and expand Internet, television and wireless infrastructure in Manitoba.

Thirty-two per cent of Manitobans expect this to be a good thing, while 46 per cent are neutral on the matter and 21 per cent think it's a negative.

Bell also promised Winnipeg would become its Western Canada headquarters and bring the company's western employee count up to 6,900 with 2,700 MTS employees included.

But Manitobans were less enthused with that commitment, as 83 per cent think that is either a neutral, bad or very bad thing.

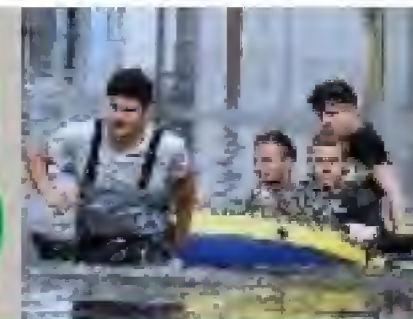


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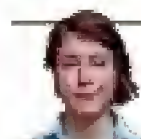


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BUDGET

Councillor tepid on big changes for 2017



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

It may feel like only yesterday council passed Winnipeg's annual spending plan, but preparations for the 2017 budget are officially underway.

Coun. Marty Morantz, chairman of the city's finance committee, said chief financial officer Mike Ruta has sent out the annual call letters to each department, asking bureaucrats to bring forward their submissions for the upcoming fiscal year.

"It's just the very beginning of the process," he said.

He anticipates the city's executive policy committee will begin its work on next year's budget sometime in September.

Determining how that process will unfold, such as the length of time for deliberations or who will be involved in the planning, is still up in the air, Morantz said.

He was pleased with last year's decision to include two non-members of the mayor's inner circle — councillors Jenny Gerbasi and Scott Gillingham — in the working group but was unsure whether

different councillors would be chosen if the same decision was made this time around.

Ensuring the budget process is as inclusive as possible is the goal at city hall, Morantz said.

Nevertheless, he stopped short of welcoming all members of council into the process, as was raised on the floor last month.

"It was really designed based on a parliamentary model," Morantz said of the current system.

He explained the six-member executive policy committee — chosen and chaired by Mayor Brian Bowman — is tasked with hammering out the policies and decisions that inform the city's annual spending plan.

The city's process is akin to the methods used by both upper levels of government, which excludes a number of MPs or MLAs, save those with specific portfolios, he said.

Morantz cautioned that deviating from that system and opening the door to all of council could see the city's budget planning become more politicized.

"I'm not comfortable that wouldn't happen," he said of the suggestion.

Morantz hopes to table and pass the budget by December.



It's just the very beginning of the process.

Coun. Marty Morantz

Little time to talk walking, cycling

CITY DELIBERATIONS

Councillors fear other priorities will bury active transportation



Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

The idea of not having enough time to debate active transportation during budget deliberations really grinds the gears of some city councillors.

At the recent public-works committee meeting, Coun. Devi Sharma told her peers that "there isn't adequate time" to really get into cycling and walking plans amid other budget issues.

For 2016, the plan was passed several months after the budget was approved, but for 2017 it's slated to be debated along with road spending and the rest of council's priorities.

Councillors recently passed a \$6-million pedestrian and cycling action plan unanimously — green-lighting the construction of paths, sidewalks and



Council recently passed a \$6-million pedestrian and cycling action plan. BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

bike lanes that will be part of a \$334-million active transportation rollout over the next 20 years.

At that time, Coun. Matt Allard expressed the same concerns as Sharma, saying rolling it into the budget process could potentially see it buried.

Committee chairperson Coun.

Janice Lukes sympathizes, and said giving active transportation time at a separate meeting might be best.

"In a regular committee meeting we can have more flexibility to make adjustments to the report and to work with the departments, whereas in the budget it's usually all or nothing," she said.

+ 2016 SPENDING

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Welcome to Winnipeg, Nenshi

#MAYORS DAY OUT

Around the city with Bowman, in seven photos



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

Our mayor may not know the meaning behind the phrase 'Netflix and chill,' but he knows how to show someone a good time.

Mayor Brian Bowman played host to visiting Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi Wednesday as they toured various sites around the city.

The pair of social media superstars began their day pouring coffees at a Tim Horton's as part of the chain's annual Camp Day drive, then proceeded with a visit to the Assiniboine Park Zoo for a tour of the acclaimed Journey to Churchill polar bear exhibit.

Next on their list was a stop at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Afterwards, the mayors and their squad took a short drive down to The Forks, where Nenshi joked with a few onlookers about his taste in hockey teams, while Bowman made sure to show off local business success Manitobah Mukluks to his mayoral counterpart.

A short rainy walk down to the Assiniboine River later, the pair's light conversation waded into comedic territory after a joke prompted Nenshi to explain to Bowman the meaning behind 'Netflix and chill.' (Google it.)

From there, the pair stopped for lunch at Neechi Commons, and concluded their public outing with a visit to Miles Macdonnell Collegiate as part of Bowman's plan to visit every high school in the city.

Nenshi's visit coincides with a conference hosted by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities that launched Wednesday.



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Branding city as diverse cost \$30K

BUDGET

Anti-racism summit alone cost more than \$21,000



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

Some could say the cost of promoting diversity, and branding 2016 as the year of reconciliation in Winnipeg, is priceless.

On the other hand, financial records shows city hall has paid at least \$30,000 to send out that message of inclusivity.

A copy of an invoice dated Dec. 23, 2015 shows the city paid \$4,049.76 to promotional products supplier Shippam & Associates Inc., for an order of 7,000 silicone wristbands.

These rubber bracelets, imprinted with the words Leadership, Diversity and Winnipeg on one side with MayorBowman.ca on the other, were passed out to



Lapel pins displaying "2016 Year of Reconciliation" cost the city \$1,447.70. ELISHA DACEY/METRO

those in attendance at an event meant to encourage diversity, held at city hall back in January.

Metro obtained access to

these records under freedom of information legislation.

The gathering marked the one-year anniversary of when Winnipeg was labelled the

most racist city in Canada by Maclean's magazine, and concluded with Mayor Brian Bowman declaring this the year of reconciliation in the city.

In the previous year, Bowman announced the city would host One: The Mayor's National Summit on Racial Inclusion, also launched in response to the Maclean's article.

That two-day summit, held at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in September 2015, ended up costing more than \$21,000, expense records from the mayor's office shows.

The city also paid local design group Bloom + Brilliance around \$2,900 to develop a brand for the event, a colourful circle logo that is now used as the focal image to promote 2016 as the year of reconciliation and appears on civic documents.

\$2,900

What the city paid local design firm Bloom + Brilliance to create the colourful circle logo that is now used as the focal point of the 2016 reconciliation campaign.

+ BREAKDOWN

Here's what the city spent on diversity branding

One: The Mayor's National Summit on Racial Inclusion: \$21,766.83 (Source: Mayor's office expense records, Dec. 2015)

Logo: \$2,913.75 (Source: Invoice to design firm Bloom + Brilliance)

Embracing diversity event in January 2016: \$1,364.05 (Source: Mayor's office expense records, Feb. 2016)

Rubber bracelets for embracing diversity: \$4,049.76 (Source: Invoice to Shippam & Associates Inc., Dec. 2015)

Additional wristbands: \$324.98 (Source: Invoice to Waywork Inc., Jan. 2016)

Lapel pins displaying "2016 Year of Reconciliation": \$1,447.70

Total: \$31,867.07

METRO

INDIGENOUS WOMEN

Police will be blamed during MMIW inquiry: Bellegarde

Canada's top First Nations leader says police should brace themselves for some blame in an upcoming inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women.

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde says fingers will be pointed during the inquiry, which is expected to last two years.

"You guys didn't do an adequate job. You didn't put enough human and financial resources into the research and the investigation surrounding all these cases involving First Nations women," Bellegarde said Wednesday in a speech to police chiefs from across the country.

"That's what's going to happen. You know that. I know that. So what is your answer?"

Police forces should start compiling statistics and thoughts now, he suggested. They should figure out how to showcase what they're doing well, but be equally prepared to examine their shortcomings.

Many people still stereotype indigenous people as "stupid, lazy, drunk, (and on) welfare," he said.

"Be big enough to show that more work needs to be done to improve the system."

The federal government is expected to set a mandate this



Assembly of First Nations chief Perry Bellegarde said law enforcement should prepare to be blamed for 'not doing enough' to find missing and murdered indigenous women.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/FILE

summer for the long-awaited inquiry into about 1,200 missing and murdered indigenous women.

A report released Wednesday summarizing public consultations suggested law enforcement should address "delays in responding to reports of missing indigenous women and girls."

The government report also says police should address "systemic racism" and look at how officers treat indigenous women, girls and their families.

Saskatoon police Chief Clive Weighill, head of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, said some of the criticism likely to come out of the inquiry is justified.

But he also said police have changed the way they handle such cases. They don't wait 24 hours to start investigating a missing person, work more closely with families and have put in safeguards to ensure cases don't fall through the cracks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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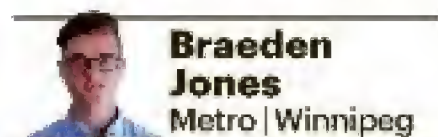


It was gold for the crew at Half Pints Brewing Company at the Canadian Brew Awards. TWITTER

Winnipeg kölsch wins

BEER

Brew by Half Pints scores national award



Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

Local craft brewery Half Pints Brewing Company's St. James Pale Ale is the gold winner in the Canadian Brewing Awards kölsch category.

Thrice a silver-medal-winning bridesmaid at the awards, the toast of Winnipeggers craving a medium-bodied blonde with a malty finish was named the best kölsch beer in the country this week at the annual conference in Vancouver.

"The beer judging is done by blind-folded, certified, national-level beer judges, so it's kind of cool to know people that have

the training are doing the tasting and chose the winners," said Half Pints Brewing president David Rudge.

"Everybody (entering) gets the chance to compete on a level playing field... so we are pretty proud to win."

He said the kölsch category is a tough field, and the all-barley pale ale is a challenging brew to master.

"Kölsch is a beer style where you can't hide flaws, you can't hide unclean brewing, issues with your yeast, anything like that... you've got to brew it very cleanly," he said.

Some brewers use the annual awards competition and convention to launch or test new products — but the entry from Half Pints clinked along the production line with the bottles at your nearest Liquor Mart.

"From what the guys at work told me they stood at the end of the bottling line, packed 'em up and sent it in," Rudge said.

COURT

Hearing ahead of prisoner inquest

Manitoba has ordered a hearing to determine who can speak at an inquest into the prison death of a high-ranking member of the Rock Machine biker gang.

Jean Paul Beaumont was an inmate at the Brandon Correctional Centre in 2012 when he died in his cell of a morphine overdose. An investigation into his death found no evidence of

criminal wrongdoing.

The inquest will explore the circumstances surrounding Beaumont's death and determine what could be done to prevent similar deaths.

A judge must first decide who can participate in the inquest.

The standing hearing is set for June 23 at Brandon provincial court. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ALCOHOL

Forks Market(ing) craft beer and wine

You'll soon be able to have a little bubbly along with your muddy waters.

Following the completion of a \$2.8-million renovation to its food hall, The Forks Market is opening a new kiosk with craft beer and wine offerings.

The Forks spokesperson Clare MacKay said the "seasonally changing, curated list of craft beers and wines" offers up a full dining experience "in a way no other place in the city can."

Beer will be offered in 12- or

16-ounce glasses ranging from \$8 to \$10 each, and beer flights of four four-ounce tasters will cost between \$12 and \$20, depending on the beer.

The variety was handpicked by professional sommelier William Predhomme, who said its selection of both local products and independent suppliers is totally unique.

"To be able to create a truly craft list, one that isn't bound to large suppliers, for a licensed food hall — there's nothing like

this anywhere in Canada right now," he said.

Local beers from Half Pints Brewer and Fort Garry Brewing will join craft beers from Hop City, Rhyme and Reason, and others.

MacKay said the plan is to "definitely add more" local craft beers to the seasonal list as time goes on, something Predhomme supports.

Wines at the new kiosk will be offered in six-ounce servings for \$8 to \$40 a glass or in

flights priced similarly to the beer tasters.

The selection includes wines from Portugal, South Africa, and some Canadian options from British Columbia and Ontario. One wine, Leaning Post, is owned and operated by former Winnipeggers.

A prepared statement from The Forks said profits from the new Kiosk, which "will be open to the public shortly" will be reinvested in The Forks Market.

BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

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PHOTOS: KEVIN TUONG/METRO



Gerald Wong is the first to re-enter McMurray TV Centre.



Some lawns haven't been maintained in a while.



A playground is a reminder of the rebuilding to come.

FORT MCMURRAY

A family's homecoming

The first thing they noticed is the smell. Well, the lack of it.

"It smells so good," said Heather Thomas, who along with her husband Russell walked into her house for the first time in almost a month Wednesday after being allowed to return to Fort McMurray.

Heather, Russell and their two sons live just outside of downtown Fort McMurray, in a house surrounded by a large garden.

It's an area relatively untouched by the wildfire that forced more than 90,000 to flee the city.

But that's not to say the house wasn't threatened: The hill right across from the Thomas' neighbourhood is a sea of burnt trees.

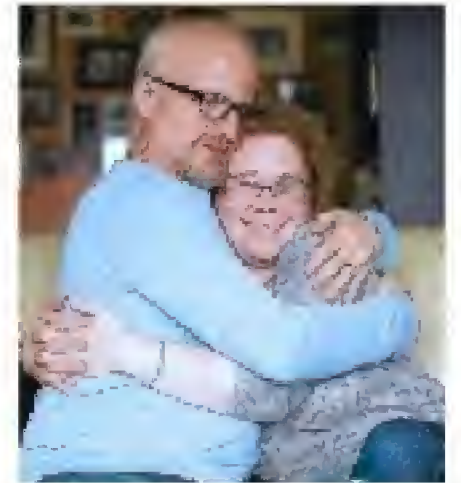
That led to all sorts of stress and worry.

"In the first couple of days, there was no level of comfort around this part of town," Russell said.

"Oh, rumours, left right and centre," Heather added. "This is gone, that's blown up."

Thankfully, none were true.

Inside the house, the couple took in their surroundings Wednesday: Despite the faint scent of smoke and a few things left in a hurry, it was all as if they'd left it that morning rather than in early May.



Russell and Heather Thomas embrace in their home.
KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Having assessed the house's general condition, the couple then went to other areas.

Russell, an artist, headed to his studio out back. He opened the door and looked relieved.

A dozen or so paintings were safe.

The two emphasized how lucky they are compared to the many who have lost homes.

But: "We haven't seen what agencies are lost, what neighbours and friends' and colleagues' homes look like," Heather said.

The next hurdle, Russell added, is knowing who's back, who's coming back and who isn't. ALEX BOYD/METRO

Return to FORT MAC

A city comes back from its toughest moment



Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

On Wednesday morning, Gerald Wong watched his city come back to life.

"Three days ago it was literally a ghost town," said Wong, a lifelong resident who arrived back in Fort McMurray early to

reopen McMurray T.V. Centre, the electronics store he manages.

"I would stand in the middle of Franklin [Avenue], right there," he said, pointing to Fort McMurray's main street.

As the first wave of residents returned to their fire-ravaged city Wednesday, car after car honked at a line of firefighters, who hoisted a Canada flag on their ladders atop an overpass.

After almost a month in exile, Wednesday marked the start of the staged re-entry of the estimated 90,000 thousand people forced to flee the wildfire.

The first zone to be reopened includes downtown, which was

relatively unscathed by fire, with major residential neighbourhoods that were more affected opening later in the week.

Standing on the sidewalk on Franklin, morning radio show host Matthew Baron was offering a welcome of his own, standing beside a sign reading "Free Welcome Home Hugs."

"Every morning when I'm on the air you can come on down, tap on the window of the studio and I'll give you a hug."

Despite the uptick in activity, there are still signs of what happened while all were gone.

Grass on otherwise well-tended lots is ankle deep. A

recycling bin holds hundreds of copies of the May issue of a local newsletter that will never be read.

The dumpsters of a local convenience store are piled high with frozen chickens and cheese buns that expired weeks ago.

Most stores are closed, but personnel linked to services deemed essential were let back into the city early — so some grocery stores are open, gas stations ready to fuel cars, but not much else.

There aren't a lot of people around yet, but with the extra police and government vehicles, residents say traffic is almost back to normal.




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Parliament's social challenge

POLITICS

Overindulgence is easy for many at wine-fuelled gatherings

Life on Parliament Hill, with its parade of free meals and wine-soaked networking events, can make it difficult for even the most stout-willed politicians, staffers and journalists to avoid overindulging at the best of times.

"It's an occupational hazard," said one former senior political aide from a previous Liberal government.

So imagine the challenge for those struggling with alcohol issues, such as Nunavut MP Hunter Tootoo, who stepped down from his cabinet post and left the Liberal caucus Tuesday to seek treatment for what the Prime Minister's Office has only referred to as

"addiction issues."

Tootoo has not spoken about his experience, but former MPs and staffers recall a lifestyle marked by multiple receptions with stakeholders every night, where socializing with a drink in hand is considered part of the job.

Former Liberal MP Marlene Jennings remembers the atmosphere during her time in Ottawa, with a variety of organizations hosting receptions as part of their lobbying efforts on any given night. MPs and senators would circle the room to exchange business

it becomes really easy to have that glass of wine and then have the second one and you're not realizing that you're on to your third one," she said Wednesday.

Don Boudria, an Ottawa-based lobbyist and former Liberal member of Parliament, says more awareness about mental health and addiction — and more women on Parliament Hill — means things are not nearly as bad as they used to be.

And they were bad, he said, recalling seeing people drinking themselves literally under



It's an occupational hazard.

Former Liberal government political aide

cards with a glass of wine in their hands before heading back to a debate — or on to another event.

"Even those who have absolutely no drinking problem,

the table when he was a staffer at the start of his political career.

"All of these things have changed, and thank God they have," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Hunter Tootoo has resigned from the federal cabinet and the Liberal caucus, citing "addiction issues." THE CANADIAN PRESS

REACTION

PM says idea was Tootoo's

Speaking outside of the Liberal caucus meeting Wednesday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Hunter Tootoo's decision was his and his alone, and that it followed "a very difficult situation."

"This was his own choice," Trudeau said. "We will have nothing further to say on this matter."

The prime minister's remarks, however, did not stop widespread speculation about what prompted Tuesday's surprise announcement.

Sources familiar with Tootoo's career as a member of the territorial legislature in Nunavut say he has a history of alcohol problems.

Police in Winnipeg, where Tootoo attended the annual Liberal policy convention on the weekend, went so far Wednesday as to publicly deny that they were ever involved in any sort of incident involving the member of Parliament.

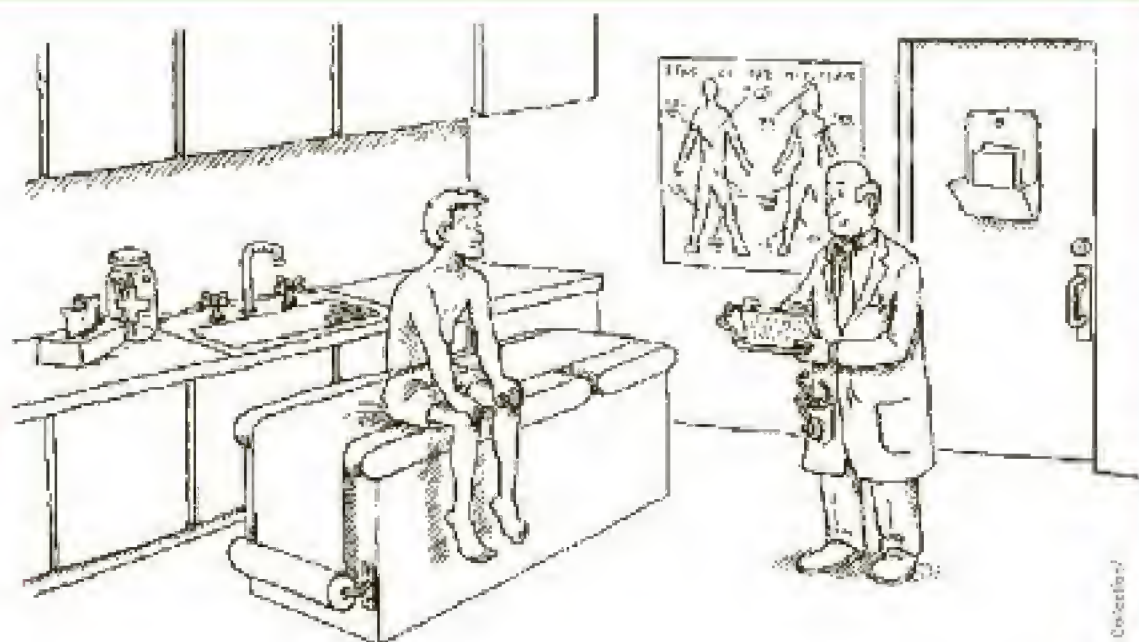
"Winnipeg Police Service has no record of any official police contact with this individual," said a public information officer with the force. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Gun drama on campus

UCLA

Overwhelming response to murder-suicide

A murder-suicide at a UCLA engineering building Wednesday drew hundreds of heavily armed officers who swarmed the Los Angeles campus, where students close to summer break barricaded themselves in classrooms as best they could before being evacuated with their hands up.

About two hours after the first 911 call came in around 10 a.m., with the centre of campus still saturated with officers, Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck declared the threat over. Two men were dead in an office, and authorities found a gun and what might be a suicide note, he said.

Authorities did not identify the men, and a motive was not immediately clear.

The response to the shooting was overwhelming.

Teams of officers in helmets and bulletproof vests who were looking for victims and suspects

ran across the normally tranquil campus tucked in the city's bustling west side. Some with high-powered rifles yelled for bystanders to evacuate. Groups of officers stormed into buildings that had been locked down and cleared hallways as police helicopters hovered overhead.

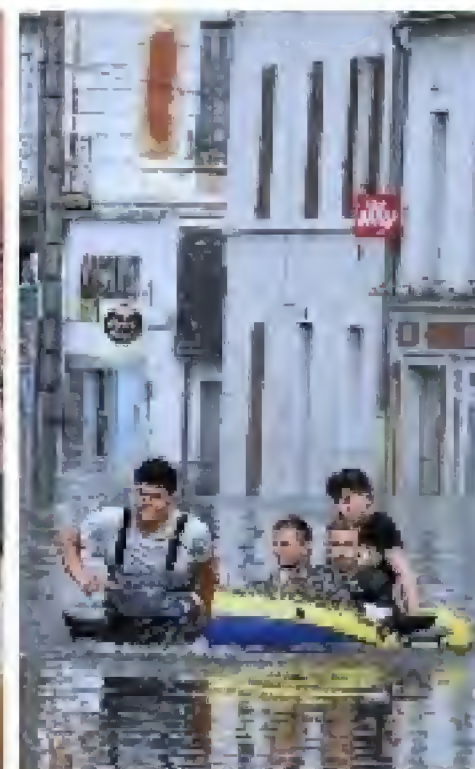
Advised by university text alerts to turn out the lights and lock the doors where they were, many students let friends and family know they were safe in social media posts. Some described frantic evacuation scenes, while others wrote their doors weren't locking and posted photos of photocopiers and foosball tables they used as barricades.

Those locked down inside classrooms described a nervous calm. Some said they had to rig the doors closed with whatever was at hand because they would not lock.

SWAT officers cleared occupants one by one. One man walked out with his hands up and was told to get on his knees. An armed officer searched him and his backpack, then sent him on his way. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A man searches for people in flooded buildings in the town of Montargis, south of Paris, on Wednesday. Torrential downpours have lashed parts of northern Europe. AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Residents pass through the flooded streets of Montargis via an inflatable raft. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

FLOODING

Rain pummels French cities

Floods devastated regions across France on Wednesday — in some areas, the worst seen in a century or more. The Seine River overflowed its banks, one French town was evacuated, travellers trapped on a submerged highway were rescued by soldiers and boat cruises in Paris were cancelled.

Meteorologists said more bad news is coming — the waters are

expected to keep rising for days.

Drenched tourists were rearranging plans, schools in one region were shut down and the French government pressed to rescue thousands of people trapped in homes or cars in provincial towns.

No casualties have been reported, but emergency workers have carried out more than 8,000 rescue operations from

the Belgian border south to Burgundy over the past two days, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said Wednesday.

Paris City Hall closed roads along the shores of the Seine from the Left Bank in the east to the Eiffel Tower neighbourhood in the west, as water levels rose at least 4.3 metres (14 feet, 1 inch) higher than usual.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Egypt says signals picked up from plane's black box

Egypt said Wednesday that a French ship has picked up signals from deep under the Mediterranean Sea, presumed to be from one of the black boxes of the EgyptAir plane that crashed last month, killing all 66 passengers and crew on board. The development raised hopes the plane's flight data and cockpit voice recorders, known as the black boxes, could be retrieved and shed light on the aircraft's crash. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spare the children: UN

The UN children's fund issued a stark warning to Iraqi troops and Daesh militants in the battle for Fallujah to spare the children, the most vulnerable among civilians who remain trapped by the fighting for control of this city west of Baghdad. The UNICEF estimated the number of the children trapped with their families inside the city at about 20,000, warning that they face a dire humanitarian situation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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DESMOND COLE ON MARIJUANA



The line between needing pot for an illness and wanting it for pleasure needs to be blurred.

The problem is pot stigma, not the "black market."

Last week's police raids of marijuana dispensaries in Toronto exposed an important feature of the so-called "war on drugs" in Canada. For years, most Canadians have told pollsters that pot should be legalized or decriminalized. More and more people are recognizing the medical benefits of weed. Our war, then, seems not so much on marijuana as it is on people who have been selling and using it illegally, especially for recreation.

Pot advocates have warned that the "black market" of presumed gangsters will benefit from the dispensary raids. To me, the "black market" is just another term for the people you bought your weed from before dispensaries.

Our government has exploited the stigma of consuming pot for fun, rather than for health, to criminalize the market and create space for armed, organized gangs to control it. It's going to take a lot more than legalization to end a stigma around weed that has encouraged crime and led to an untold waste of public resources.

It's easy to hate the players

in the drug trade, especially those who can't afford a storefront, but the foolish game of prohibition itself is the reason people cannot access marijuana in peace and safety. The problem is not that people with shady motives want to sell weed, but that the government has incentivized such people by making it a crime to grow and sell pot.

Graham Clark, a Toronto criminal lawyer, seized on this in his reaction to the recent dispensary raids. "Every person who now cannot go to a dispensary will instead have to trek into the black market that government and police, through prohibition, create to the great benefit of actual criminals," Clark said.

The latter part of Clark's statement, about government creation of crime through prohibition, is absent from many condemnations of the raids. Rather, the spectre of a dangerous criminal market is being used to explain why police should leave dispensaries alone.

In a news release calling for all charges to be dropped against dispensary operators and employees, the Toronto Cannabis Coalition argued,

"when compared with (government-sanctioned) mail order or the black market, dispensaries in Toronto provide a safe, informative environment where patients can source high-quality medical cannabis."

This statement is true, but the contrast between dispensaries and street drugs reinforces stigma. Just as people who use pot for medicinal purposes have long relied on illegal, recreational suppliers, recreational users have almost certainly been benefiting from dispensaries whose stated purpose is to provide medical marijuana.

Some Toronto dispensaries reportedly have very lax standards for determining a person's medical need for marijuana. If this is true, dispensaries are successfully blurring the line between selling pot for health reasons, and simply helping people get high.

This line needs to be blurred in order to erase pot stigma. Yes, there is a big difference between needing pot for a diagnosed illness and wanting it for pleasure. But the difference should never be used to justify the violence, policing costs, criminal rec-

ords, prison sentences, and court expenses the government currently employs against recreational users and suppliers.

I don't care if someone without a medical condition can get weed from a dispensary, or her local dealer, or by growing it at home, as long as no one is harmed or threatened in the process.

Removing the stigma associated with marijuana can help us to avoid more foolish time and resource expenditures in the future. For example, in a post-legalization era, the government should make it cheap and easy for people to receive pardons with criminal records related to pot.

There shouldn't be any sanction for smoking weed in public, selling it on the street, or growing small amounts of it on the balcony — it cannot be added to the preposterous regime of provincial-offence tickets for such horrors as drinking in public, begging for change, or sleeping in a public park.

Pot proponents will have to fight for these realities — they will be less successful in doing so if they reinforce the stigma around weed that makes it OK to sell weed in a posh dispensary, but not OK to grow at home, smoke in public, or trade on the street. If people want marijuana, let them have it without shame or sanction.

Instead of reinforcing fear of a black market, let's make such a market irrelevant.

Desmond Cole is a Toronto-based journalist.

Tootoo's departure has served his country well



Rosemary Westwood
Metro | Toronto

Lately a certain someone has been bemoaning our culture's seeming lack of interest in, even wilful ignorance of, history.

Every time I bring up some newish trend — "white anger in the U.S.!" — he scoffs and utters some variation of "history repeating itself."

It's an irritating recurrence, but given my own spotty sense of the past, I've decided he's got a point.

And so I feel compelled, in the wake of Fisheries Minister Hunter Tootoo's resignation, to remind us all of how badly addiction-and-politics stories can go.

Tootoo — who was a historic appointment, the first northern MP to hold the fisheries file — stepped aside with little fuss this week. He released a statement asking for privacy, and only vaguely explained a need to address "addiction issues." The prime minister issued a similarly restrained statement.

Some, including the Aboriginal People's Television Network, left the story mostly at that. Other media went picking for loose threads. The Globe ran a piece claiming the addiction in question was alcohol abuse, and both it and CTV suggested some kind of incident during the Liberal convention. The Toronto Star followed up with Tootoo's father, who said his son will "pull out of it."

We might expect the addi-

tional straggling story, but all in all, it's been a sad but respectable political event. Tootoo managed to leave a high office with his dignity intact, despite whatever he may be dealing with (and I hope he gets whatever help he needs). From what we understand, he executed this graceful exit (for now) for himself. It was an equally dignified but quieter version of fellow Liberal MP Seamus O'Regan's public announcement this winter he was going to rehab for alcoholism. For both these examples, we should be grateful. In not-so-distant history, all was not thus.

Rob Ford's battle with addiction turned Toronto City Hall into an international laughing stock. It sidelined important city business. It wasted citizens' time and money. It caused apparently irreparable schisms between supporters and critics, mostly because Ford lied with reckless abandon about his problems. Even Ford's well-chronicled rehab efforts were marked with controversy. Everything he touched became a trending story, and rarely was the city served in the process.

In stark contrast, we have Tootoo. He had only recently gained so much, and inspired so many. And instead of fighting to hold onto that, he has chosen to take care of himself. Canadians will be better served in the interim, which means he's also chosen what is best for us. That, above all moves by a politician, is praiseworthy.

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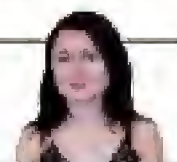


Love and darkness of the '90s

INTERVIEW

Moby memoir covers sex, booze and making music

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada



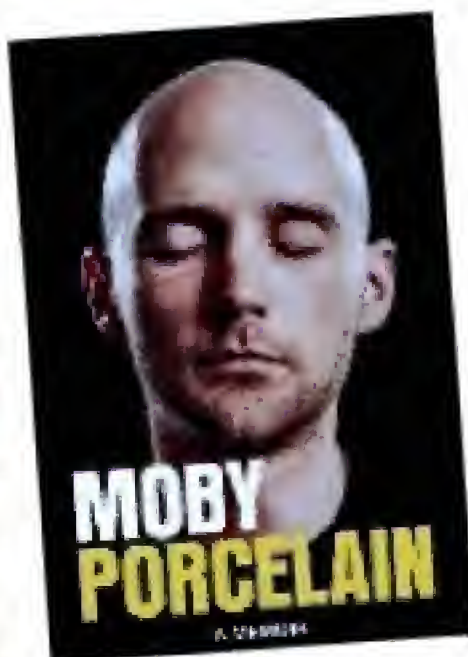
Money has not been a great motivator for Moby.

When the musician got his first big break, a regular DJ-ing gig at a New York City nightclub called Mars, he was living in an abandoned factory in a crack neighbourhood in Stamford. He had no running water and would urinate in an empty water bottle, showering once a week at other people's homes. But his \$50-a-month space had electricity, which meant he could cook oatmeal on a hot plate, and, more importantly, make music.

"It was pretty squalid, but I was considerably happier there than when I lived in a five-level apartment overlooking Central Park, and Bono and Alec Baldwin were my neighbours," Moby says.

In fact, he sees most manifestations of luxury as either gratuitous or something to worry about.

Sitting in a hotel lobby last week wearing jeans, a light gray tee and dark sweatshirt with a few animal hairs clinging to it, the musician has just come back from an interview at a morning TV show in Toronto, discussing his memoir, *Porcelain* (also the title of a song on his hit 1999



album, *Play*, which was recently cited by Adele as having inspired her sound on 25).

"Backstage there were a bunch of pugs and I got to spend like, five minutes rolling around on the floor with pugs," says the animal rights activist and long-time vegan. "If I had \$500 jeans or a \$500 sweatshirt, I would have been scared to do that. And I think there shouldn't be anything in your life that you have to worry about in the presence of pugs."

Born in New York City, Moby grew up in Connecticut, raised by a single mom who occasionally would send him out to buy groceries with food stamps. After his career takes off in the early '90s, he becomes an international star with electronic hits like *Go* and *Feeling So Real*. But his success flounders with the release of a punk rock album called *Animal Rights*, and after eight years of sobriety a post-breakup beer in a San Francisco dive bar

leads to regular binge-drinking and severe anxiety.

Moby wrote *Porcelain*, putting a lot of effort into transporting detail — from the pools of blood of butchered animals in Manhattan's Meatpacking District, to the texture of the sheets and bedspreads in the drab hotel rooms he slept in while on tour. Even the spouts of vomit, semen, and spit that accompany alcohol and drug-fuelled parties are declared.

Through his writing, the past would come to seem more real than the present, says Moby. "It's like Proust with his madeleine in *Remembrance of Things Past* where there's this cascade; this domino effect," he says. "I would just sort of then remember all these different memories and try to describe them in a way that gave them almost a tactile quality."

Living in New York wasn't easy — he writes of encounters with drug dealers, angry cab drivers, and a constant search for love and a soulmate that often left him feeling lonely and insecure.

"Cities even at their best are still difficult, challenging places. And oftentimes whether you're an artist or a writer or a musician, sometimes you're making your art or music or writing a reflection of the dynamism of the city but also as a refuge against it."

Still, Moby's biggest fear was having to leave the city and to go back to the "purgatory" of life in the suburbs, he says.

It wasn't being broke that he was afraid of — it was going back to a "lifeless environment."



Moby says cities, even at their best, are difficult and challenging places. "Whether you're an artist or a writer or a musician, sometimes you're making your art or music or writing a reflection of the dynamism of the city but also as a refuge against it." COURTESY MELISSA DANIS

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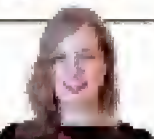
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Sprawling plot and vampiric monsters

CONCLUSION

Trilogy's last line was already in Cronin's mind

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada



A decade ago, when Justin Cronin began working on his post-apocalyptic thriller *The Passage* and its two sequels, he had a few concepts in mind. He knew he wanted the books to feature a sprawling plot and a large cast of characters.

And monsters: vampiric creatures, specifically. Not the handsome, sparkling blood-suckers that dominated popular culture, but a more insidiously sinister monster that could reflect contemporary anxieties.

The Houston-based author wanted to make a certain "sound or music" with words, and he knew exactly what the final sentence of the trilogy's collective 2,000 pages would be. "I needed to know the rhetoric of the last moment," he says.

Cronin didn't give any consideration to where the book would be shelved in stores. *The Passage* trilogy is a mash-up of genres "piled on top of each other."

Readers didn't care how *The Passage* was labelled — nor were they intimidated by its nearly 800-page length — they were happy to spend sleepless nights with the terrifying New York Times bestseller, and its two sequels, 2012's *The Twelve*, and now, the final tome, *The City of Mirrors*.

Given the books' vast scale, time-shifts and interconnected stories, a plot summary is challenging: a secret government project backfires, creating a horde of vampirish "virals" with intense powers who essentially destroy civilization, save for a small group of survivors, including a young girl named Amy, who was also injected with the virus.

While some semblance of peace is established by the beginning of *The City of Mirrors*, it turns out to all be an illusion.

The origin of the trilogy has become part of the books' legend, and a PR dream. It started as an ongoing storytelling game between Cronin and his then-eight-year-old daughter Iris.

Iris suggested the idea of a "girl who saves the world," a



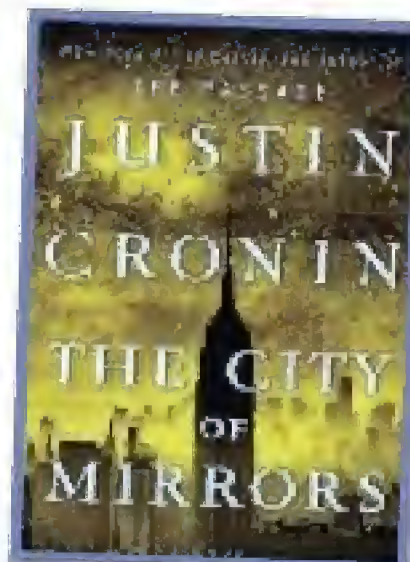
The *City of Mirrors*, the conclusion of Justin Cronin's *Passage* trilogy, has been released. JULIE SOEFER

far stretch from Cronin's first books, which focused more on relationship dynamics. Although she is now a college freshman with her own writing career, Iris — who refers to Cronin cheekily as her "work wife" — taught the author a valuable reminder early on about the fundamentals of storytelling.

"There's an inner critic that you acquire as an adult that tells you what you ought to like, but with a kid it's just, 'is this interesting? Is this good? Is it exciting?' That was a pretty good standard."

Born in 1962 shortly before the Cuban Missile Crisis, Cronin grew up "during the most dangerous time on the planet," believing it was possible he could be incinerated at any moment, which gave him an early taste for post-apocalyptic literature.

While his books tap into lit-



erary themes that have been around since the Bible, the trilogy is loaded with decidedly modern anxieties, with references to 9/11, global warming, viral disease and his own panicked experience during 2005's Hurricane Rita, when Houston was evacuated just weeks after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans.

So does Cronin have insight as to why so many people love to read about the things they fear the most?

His own pet theory is that "by reading the story, we are cast in the role of the survivor. You close the pages and the beautiful world is still here, and it's enormously reassuring."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

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Revenge of the nerds: TV mines science for laughs

ANALYSIS

Today's writers are finding comedy in the complex

The world of science and technology is rife with fantastic, gripping and unforgettable stories that are regularly told on TV, but it hasn't been the most fertile of ground when it comes to the comedy genre.

The political, media and entertainment spheres have supplied the setting for numerous quality comedies over the years — *Veep*, *WKRP in Cincinnati*, *30 Rock* and *The Larry Sanders Show*, to name a few — but just about anything and everything related to advanced technological concepts usually remains in the realm of the dramatic (*AMC's Halt and Catch Fire*) and crime (*CBS's CSI: Cyber*).

But in recent years, that's changed. Though there's still a paucity of high-tech comed-

ies for viewers to enjoy, two of them — CBS's *The Big Bang Theory* and HBO's *Silicon Valley* — have carved out significant niche spots in the TV landscape.

With some exceptions (mainly, the socially inept nerd unable to connect with the opposite sex), the two shows are about as far from the same type of comedy as they can be, but both have succeeded at infusing intricate ideas with laughter and have established themselves as beloved productions with devoted fan bases.

Because it airs on a major American network, *The Big Bang Theory* (TBBT, for abbreviation's sake) took the traditional comedic route that employs multi-camera and a laugh track, as well as broadly drawn characters (most notably, Sheldon Cooper as played by Jim Parsons), and relatively simple plot and character arcs that don't require viewers to have seen a prior episode to understand.

This isn't appointment TV and, because of that, it isn't disappointment TV if you forget to record it on any given

evening. Like *Silicon Valley*, it embraces and normalizes the geek/nerd archetype, but TBBT makes clear that the main cast are, at heart, fundamentally decent people.

Contrast that with *Silicon Valley*, a program that is more satirical in tone — sharpening its knives to poke fun at the high-stakes world of technocapitalism geek culture — and that uses HBO's more open platform to produce dark laughs and adult humour.

Veteran showrunner Mike Judge (*Beavis and Butt-Head*, *King of the Hill*) mines intricate science and math concepts for huge laughs: one of its funniest moments to this point in its three-season run comes at the end of Season 1, and involves mass masturbation and a mathematic formula for such that must be seen to be believed.

Series stars T.J. Miller (*Deadpool*), Kumail Nanjiani (*Franklin & Bash*) and Canadian Thomas Middleditch (*Comedy Bang! Bang!*) occupy a nastier world in which corporate throat-cutting

and collapsed business deals are a fact of life. You do need to see this show in chronological order to appreciate what's going on, but the reward is in many ways far greater than the face-value laughs of TBBT.

Really, the only program comparable to the two series is Britain's *The IT Crowd*, which aired 24 episodes over four seasons from 2006 to 2013, and starred Irish actor Chris O'Dowd (*Bridesmaids*). The series, available on Netflix, won international Emmys and was syndicated internationally, but an American version — starring *Community*'s Joel McHale and Jessica St. Clair (*Review*) in 2007 — never made it to NBC, which produced a pilot before deciding against moving forward.

This is at once an indication of how difficult it is to make comedy involving nerdy types and a credit to TBBT (which just wrapped its ninth season) and *Silicon Valley* (which in April was renewed for a fourth season) for lodging themselves in the public eye.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



HBO's *Silicon Valley*, left, and CBS's *The Big Bang Theory*, right, have carved out a niche for high-tech comedy. CONTRIBUTED



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An opportunity to discuss, share about living with MS

Living with multiple sclerosis can be difficult at any age, but those diagnosed with the disease early in life face their own unique challenges.

That's why the MS Society of Canada, Manitoba Division is planning a one-day conference especially for those in their 20s and 30s living with multiple sclerosis, their loved ones and caregivers.

It's a chance to connect and share experiences and strength through words and music — and have some seriously good times while they're at it — says event co-planner and Winnipeg-based singer songwriter, Sheena Grobb, 32, who was diagnosed with MS at the age of 16.

"For many people who experience MS — and their families — it can be a very isolating experience especially if those in your life don't know how to talk about it with you," says Grobb of the conference, called The Heart of It. "The idea is to gather together and support each other and share some things that we don't often have an

opportunity to talk about."

The conference takes place on Sunday, June 12, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Wellness Institute, 1075 Leila Ave. in Winnipeg.

The first part of the day will see group discussions led by Grobb and other young people living with MS who will share their stories, hopes, and challenges.

Grobb says the sessions will include conversations on topics like emotional and mental wellness, job security, and family and interpersonal dynamics. Participants will also get the chance to talk about their own stories if they choose, as well as to take part in some active lifestyle sessions, says Grobb.

The discussion groups will be followed up with a yoga session and a healthy lunch that's included in the \$10 cost of registration before the afternoon finishes off with a unique songwriting workshop led by Grobb.

"We really wanted to offer a vehicle for people to express some of the things that



LORIN IPSUM DOLOR SIT

they maybe have weighing on them and transform it with art," explains Grobb, who says music has been a huge help to her since being diagnosed. "We have to have some fun too. It can be a very challenging

topic but also something that we can transcend together."

For more information on The Heart of It conference, go to someoneikeme.ca or email ellen.karr@mssociety.ca.

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DIY tropical leaf pillow prints



Oversize tropical leaf prints are all the rage right now.

PHOTOS DEBRA NORTON/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CRAFTING

This bold pattern is perfect for the season

Oversize banana leaves and tropical fronds are a hot trend this season. Turn up the heat on your sofa or patio settee with pillows sprouting tropical leaves that make a stylish imprint inside or out. Big leafy prints are easy to make with oversize stamps made from the leaves of these architectural plants found at your local florist.

Step 1: Gather and shop for the supplies:

You'll need:

- A tropical leaf (we used a split leaf philodendron)
- Cotton or linen pillow covers
- Fabric paint
- Scissors
- Paintbrush
- Glue
- Pencil
- Craft foam sheet
- Two pieces of foam-core or cardboard
- Small paint roller

Step 2: Trace an outline of the tropical leaf.

Pick a leaf that is easy to trace, such as a philodendron or a banana leaf — both leaves are readily available at flor-

ists. Place the tropical leaf on the sheet of craft foam and trace around it using a pencil.

Step 3: Cut out the leaf design.

Using scissors, cut out the traced leaf design.

Step 4: Glue the design onto foam-core or cardboard.

Glue the cut-out to a piece of foam-core or cardboard that is slightly larger than the leaf design. Let dry.

Step 5: Roll paint onto the stamp.

Using a paint roller, apply a

generous amount of paint to the leaf design. Use enough paint that it covers the entire stamp but isn't drippy.

Step 6: Place a piece of foam-core or cardboard inside the pillow to prevent paint from bleeding through the fabric. No further explanation needed.

Step 7: Stamp the fabric. Place the stamp face down onto the fabric pillow cover. Using the palms of your hands, press down firmly and evenly. Carefully lift the stamp off of the fabric. Let paint dry according to the paint manufacturer's directions.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



RETAIL

Not feeling crafty? Buy it

This DIY may literally give you a green thumb. If you'd prefer to keep your digits

paint-free we've found some easy, breezy tropical pillows that we think you'll go wild for.

1 Darci Towns

Pretty pastel block print pillows are made with eco-

friendly organic hemp and non-toxic ink in a variety of tropical leaf patterns. Tropical Leaf Block Print Pillow Cover, 16."

2 Lowes

A palm leaf pillow goes

"trad" making on-trend tropical foliage fit in with classic patio decor. Garden Treasures Ebony Tropical Outdoor Lumbar Pillow.

3 A Wild Life

Vibrant fronds and palm

leaves from original art created by Victoria-based artist Crystal Smith. Tropical Pillow Cover, 18."

4 River Oaks Studio

Sophie Benoit's hand-drawn, Nordic-inspired illustrations

are transformed into stylish pillows. Just choose a colour (there are 32 colours available!) and size to suit. Fern Leaves Pillow Cover, 16." Made to order.

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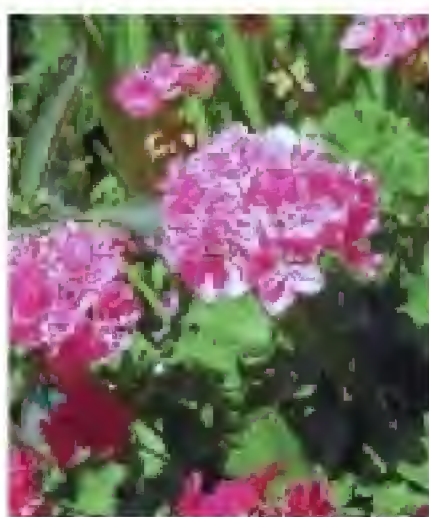
5 FLOWERS TO PLANT RIGHT NOW

This past weekend marked the official start of the growing season in Canada. Twenty years ago, most of all annuals sold in the country were impatiens. Now we enjoy a wider selection of flowering annuals. Expert gardener and author Mark Cullen shares his five favourites. **MARK CULLEN/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



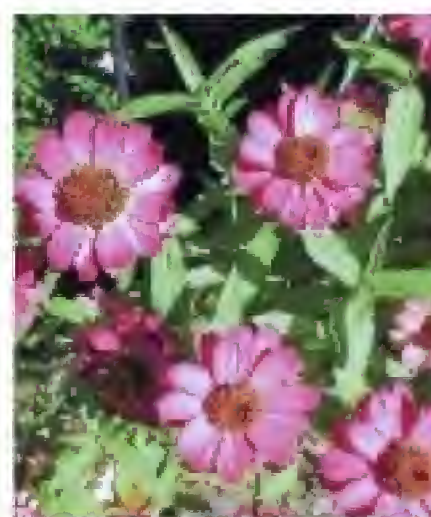
1 Cosmos

Look in any packet of mixed seed varieties designed to attract hummingbirds and butterflies and you will find Cosmos. They top my list for a number of reasons: You can cut them and enjoy them indoors for extended periods of time, they bloom for 10 to 12 weeks (though late, usually in July), they are insect and disease resistant, are available in a wide range of colours, and make a magnificent backdrop for any garden. Did I mention they save a lot of money by sowing the seed directly in your soil?



2 Geraniums

The money you save buying cosmos seeds instead of transplants is best invested in top-quality geraniums. Not all are created equal, so look for "zonal" varieties propagated from cuttings for the most part. They cost more to grow than most seed-started varieties, but will perform much better in gardens and containers and like the morning or blazing sun.



3 Zinnias

Another butterfly magnet. The classic varieties flower their heads off in a sunny garden. Start these from seed directly in the soil, nurture them in the early stages until they are well rooted and then watch out! They will explode into bloom in July and will not disappoint. Virtually no disease or insect problems will befall these beauties.



4 Nicotiana

Old-fashioned nicotiana may be the most pleasantly fragrant annual flower you can grow. It is especially attractive in the evening when pollinators are most active (aren't plants smart?) Nicotiana grows almost two metres high and requires sunshine to perform well, so plant it at the back of the garden. It's not really suitable for containers, though.



5 Begonias

I had to put a plant on my list that thrives in the shade. In truth, fibrous begonias will flower, and then flower some more. They generally mature at about 30 centimetres, so plant lots of them spaced only 20 centimetres apart for a good show. They can be real knock-outs in pink, red and white hues and many have bronze foliage.

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SIX LESSONS FOR THE FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER

How do buyers hoping to break into the competitive and pricey home market prepare for their first purchase? Here are six of the most important lessons first-home buyers can learn:

Lesson #1: Figure out your budget.

Aside from your down payment and mortgage, "there are other costs associated with the transaction, as well as the setting up and running of your new home, like legal fees, home repairs, furnishings and maintenance," says Erica Nielsen, VP of Home Equity Financing at RBC. "Look to your mortgage specialist to help you set up a realistic budget."

Lesson #2: Get preapproved.

"We hear stories about people who look and even purchase a home that stretches the bounds of what they can afford," says Nielsen. "Get preapproved first so you can be looking for homes that are relevant to what you can actually afford." It's never too early to find out how much you can afford, and put the preapproval in place. It just means you're ready, and

there's no commitment to buy.

Lesson #3: Decide what's most important.

"Think about what's most important to you at this stage of life and over the longer term." Nielsen suggests looking at a five-year horizon and weighing those things that are most important, then aligning them as closely as possible to your budget.

Lesson #4: Surround yourself with a good team.

Talk to people and ask for recommendations. "Most importantly, you need to work with experts you trust," says Nielsen: a good mortgage specialist to help with your budget and financing and a real estate agent who understands your needs and the neighbourhood you want.

Lesson #5: Consider unique approaches.

Fixer-uppers, income properties and sharing ownership are just a few creative ways to make a home affordable, but educating yourself is key. "Should you purchase with someone



The key step for first-time home buyers is to surround yourself with experts you trust. iStock

else, you need open communication; be clear about what's affordable and agree on an exit strategy if someone wants to sell out," advises Nielsen.

Lesson #6: Don't let a few disappointments get you down.

In a competitive real estate market, it's import-

ant for first-time homebuyers to realize it may be necessary to bid on multiple homes. "Focus on the end game and not each individual bid," says Nielsen.

"First-time buyers will eventually find a home they're delighted with. Remember, there are many houses out there that will meet your needs and your budget."

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Cleveland outfielder Marlon Byrd has been suspended 162 games for testing positive a second time for a performance-enhancing drug

Raptors resurrect hoop dreams in Winnipeg

VIEW FROM THE 300S
Andrew 'Hustler' Paterson

The Toronto Raptors sure picked an ideal time to have their greatest season in franchise history.

The Raptors bowed out of the playoffs last weekend after an exciting run to the eastern conference finals, but not before making huge numbers of new fans from coast to coast and pushing the sport of basketball further towards becoming recognized as a truly national sport.

Basketball was invented by a Canadian, Dr. James Naismith, but has often been an afterthought among much of the country's sports fans. Not anymore. By greater numbers than any time in history, Canadians have been watching and talking about basketball.

It shouldn't be a surprise. It was in many ways a perfect storm for the Raptors, an exciting team making an unprecedented playoff run for a Canadian NBA team. This combined with a miserable year for Canadian NHL franchises where none made the post-season, created an opportunity to grab new fans and set all-time viewership records for NBA games in Canada.

Mission accomplished. But



Bismack Biyombo, centre, and the Toronto Raptors gained plenty of new fans in Winnipeg thanks to their gutsy playoff run. VAUGHN RIDLEY/GETTY IMAGES

there is much more to this than just a month-long love affair with a scrappy team from Toronto exorcising their playoff demons.

At a grassroots level, basketball is one of the most popular sports in the country and has never been more popular than it is now. Youth registration

has exploded with more than 350 club teams operating in Winnipeg outside of programs in schools. More kids aged 12-17 are playing organized basketball right now in Canada than any other sport in the country.

There is a cultural aspect to this as well. As the demo-

graphics of Canada continue to change, sports like soccer and basketball continue to rise in participation. Growing Asian and African populations in particular are increasing the numbers of participants in the sport and certainly moving the needle on viewership of NBA games in Canada.

Winnipeg's large Filipino community is a special example of the growing prominence of basketball in hockey country. As the Filipino population has grown in our city, basketball participation has skyrocketed. This year within the Winnipeg Filipino community alone, more than 300 teams are operating in leagues over all age levels. These basketball games, tournaments and events have become a huge part of Filipino culture in Winnipeg.

NBA expansion to Toronto (and a short-lived stint in Vancouver) in 1995 created new prominence for the sport in Canada. Canadian stars like Steve Nash and Andrew Wiggins have shown the world that Canada is not just a hockey country on the court. Meanwhile, a generally younger and more culturally diverse group of fans for the Raptors keeps growing, as illustrated in the record TV numbers and the wild crowds in Jurassic Park outside Air Canada Centre on game nights.

The Raptors had a great season and playoff run captivating Canadian sports fans of all ages and ethnicities. In doing so, the team along with their fans reminded everyone of the growing presence of basketball in Canadian sports culture.

NBA FINALS

Iguodala is unsung hero, says Steve Kerr

All season long, MVP Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green drew the attention and accolades.

When it comes to the biggest moments of the playoffs, that's when the Golden State Warriors turn to Andre Iguodala.

Last year's NBA Finals MVP is a major reason why the defending champions are back in this spot with a chance to repeat.

"He's always kind of our unsung hero. He never has the numbers that jump out at you in the box score, so people don't write about him or show him much on the highlights," coach Steve Kerr said. "But he's a phenomenal defensive player and he's an incredibly intelligent player. He settles us down on offence and takes the toughest assignment on defence."

Last June, the play of Iguodala against LeBron James helped swing the NBA Finals for the Warriors, and he was called upon again to handle the daunting load that is Kevin Durant in the deciding Game 7 of the Western Conference finals. He shined, as usual.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Andre Iguodala

GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Clitsome calls it a career
Winnipeg Jets defenceman Grant Clitsome has announced his retirement.

Clitsome said in a statement posted Wednesday on the Jets' website that a back injury has forced him out of the game.

The 31-year-old Ottawa native last played in the 2014-15 season. Clitsome played seven seasons in the NHL for Columbus and Winnipeg, totalling 15 goals, 56 assists and 98 penalty minutes over 205 games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

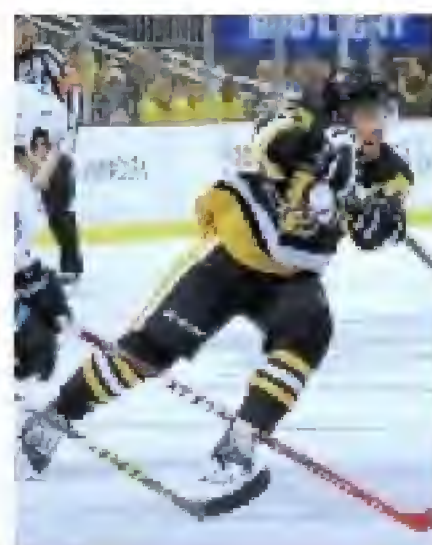
Venus out of French Open
Venus Williams was unable to join her sister in the French Open quarterfinals, failing in a bid to get back to that stage at the clay-court Grand Slam tournament for the first time in a decade.

Finally back on court after her fourth-round match was postponed twice because of bad weather, the No. 9-seeded Williams lost to No. 8 seed Timea Bacsinszky of Switzerland 6-2, 6-4 on Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STANLEY CUP FINAL

Sheary in dreamland after Crosby link up



Conor Sheary. GETTY IMAGE

Conor Sheary was still a high school student when Sidney Crosby was playing for the Stanley Cup in 2009.

He remembers watching every game, never contemplating for even a second that he might line up next to the Penguins captain in another Stanley Cup final seven years later. "You always want to get there, but you never really envision that, especially an undrafted guy like myself, it's hard to imagine," he said.

Sheary is the unheralded, undrafted 23-year-old playing and

producing on Crosby's left wing.

A five-foot-eight 175-pounder, Sheary was undrafted out of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, where he played for four full seasons before progressing to the big league.

He scored the second goal of the Penguins' series-opening win on Monday night after receiving a brilliant feed from the Pittsburgh superstar.

It was the third goal and eighth point of the playoffs for Sheary. The lowest-paid player on the team roster is, for the moment, lining up with the

arguably the game's top talent on the biggest stage possible.

"He makes it pretty easy to play with him when he finds you all over the ice," said Sheary of Crosby. It was quite a high for someone who was passed over by all 30 teams in the draft.

"It's been a pretty surreal and whirlwind year for myself," Sheary said. "And (Monday) night was a pretty special moment." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of Game 2 of the Stanley Cup final

RECIPE Sundried Tomato and Spinach Farfalli with Walnuts



PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEY

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup chopped walnuts
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup drained and sliced oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes
- 1/4 teaspoon dried crushed red pepper
- 2 cups baby spinach
- 1 pound farfalle pasta
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 3 tablespoons vegetable stock or water
- freshly grated parmesan cheese

Directions

1. In a small skillet, warm walnuts over medium heat so they release their oils and are warm, about 3 minutes. Remove from heat

and place in small bowl.

2. Bring a pot of salted water to a boil. Cook the pasta until al dente. Scoop a bit of pasta water from the pot before draining.

3. In a large skillet over medium heat, heat oil and then add garlic, sun-dried tomatoes and crushed red pepper. Sauté until garlic is a golden brown, about 3 minutes. Add a handful of spinach in batches and cook until each batch is wilted.

4. In a large serving bowl, whisk ricotta cheese with stock or water. (Use pasta water if you don't have any stock handy.) Then add spinach mixture, pasta and walnuts; toss to combine. Add salt and pepper to taste and grate fresh parmesan cheese over top and serve.

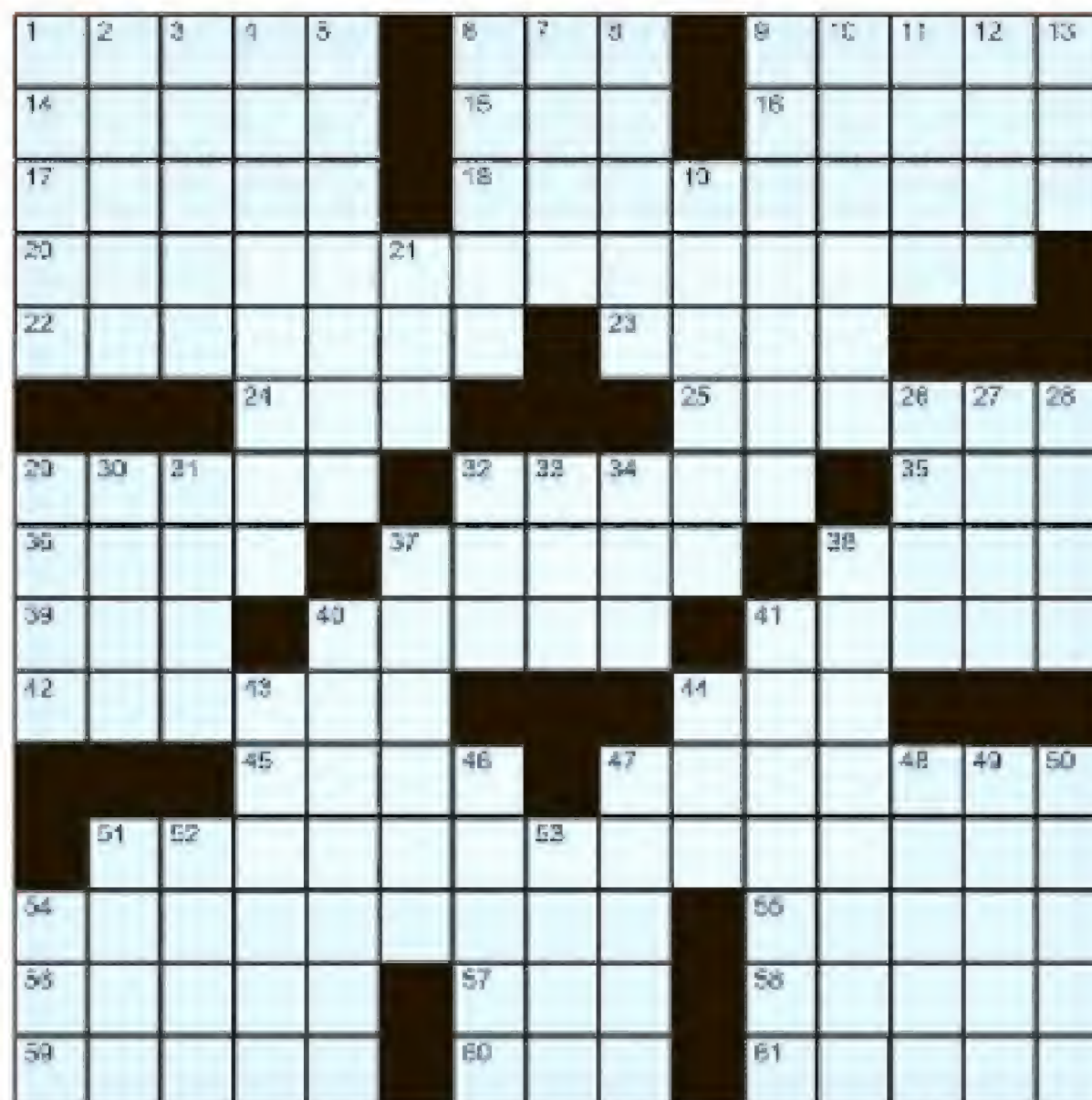
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Singer Ms. Terrell
6. Smartphone purchase
9. 'Twilight' actress, to fans
14. After-midnight hour: wd. +acr.
15. __-Julie, Quebec
16. 'One Day at __'
17. 'It __ Me' by Shaggy feat. Rikrok
18. Great Lake __en français
20. Lameque and Misou, in New Brunswick: 2 wds.
22. Luxury getaways
23. Elvis' __ __ Stung'
24. English actor Christopher
25. Figure skater Ms. Baiul
29. Wolf, for one
32. Quebec 'book'
35. Douglas __ (BC big tree)
36. Kilted family
37. Driving speed cap
38. Canadian series, 'Wind at My __'
39. Performance purchase, puny-ly
40. 10th Greek letter
41. Toast starter...
42. 1989: Oil spill ship, Exxon __
44. Brooch
45. 'Movin' __': 'The Jeffersons' song: 2 wds.
47. Herbal drink for a wise one?: 2 wds.
51. Four-leaf clovers: 3 wds.
54. Shirley Douglas' role on #38-Across: 2 wds.



55. Creamy cheeses
56. Bubbling on the stove
57. Absorb
58. Fridge brand
59. Second 'R' of J.R.R. Tolkien's name
60. WNW's reverse
61. Australian songstress Helen

DOWN

1. Battle, Go __ __
2. Within __ __ of (Nearly)
3. Geological flatlows
4. Country music instrument
5. End-of-day complaint: 2 wds.

6. Formal orgs.
7. Sound of disgust, comics-style
8. Coke alternative
9. Bar's lip-synch-ing fun
10. Times on the job
11. Linked
12. Flightless flap-pers

13. ' __ __ in Need of a Musical Revolution' by Canadian singer Esthero
19. Ansel of horror remake 'Carrie' (2013)
21. Ingested ingredients
26. Outlying
27. Sugar-topped

- cookie's name
28. Sacred chests
29. Surveillance system, e.g.
30. __-Seltzer
31. NHL 'N', briefly
32. __ balm (Make-up item)
33. Pixie
34. Touristy thoroughfare in Rome, __ Veneto
37. Blue semi-precious stone found in Kimmirut in Nunavut, Lapis __
38. 1985 hit for English band ABC: 3 wds.
40. 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' cast member
41. Apparatus in gymnastics: 2 wds.
43. 'Listen to the Music' by The __ Brothers
44. Ocean, e.g.
46. Legume
47. Communicating-by-Web service
48. Set of three
49. Make corrections to text
50. One evaluation
51. Vinnie's '70s sitcom teacher
52. Shakespeare: ' __ __ hard hearts, you cruel men of Rome...'
53. Boardroom VIPs
54. Spoil

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

♈ Aries March 21 - April 20
This is a good day for financial negotiations, but guard against extravagance. Nevertheless, look for ways to boost your income and get value for your money.

♉ Taurus April 21 - May 21
This is a strong day for you. The Moon is in your sign dancing with lucky, moneybags Jupiter. Financial speculation might interest you.

♊ Gemini May 22 - June 21
You will enjoy relaxing at home if you get the chance. You want to cocoon and be by yourself. In any case, this is an easy-going day.

♋ Cancer June 22 - July 23
Time spent with a female friend will be rewarding today. This person might encourage you to explore new ideas about politics, religion or long-distance travel.

♌ Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You make a great impression on others today, and this impression ultimately might bring you more money in the future. Don't hesitate to be generous to someone.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Shake things up a little, because you need some adventure today. You want to do something different. A short trip or an interaction with someone unusual will please you.

♎ Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Be open to the offers of others, because you can benefit from the wealth and resources of others today. In turn, you might be generous to someone at work. (What goes around, comes around.)

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Relations with others, especially partners and close friends, are warm and friendly today because people are upbeat. Make plans to have fun in the future.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
It will be easy to get the cooperation of others at work today. If you do this, something will happen that makes you look good in the eyes of your boss.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
This is a playful day for your sign! Make room for some fun activities with romantic interests, friends or children, because you will enjoy yourself.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Home and family are your primary concerns today. In fact, this is a good day to look into real estate possibilities or how to improve your home.

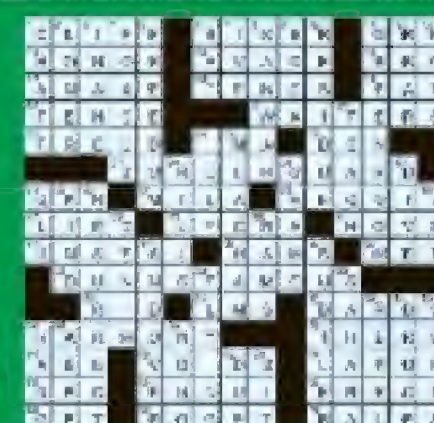
♓ Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Because you are in such a positive frame of mind today, others want to be in your company. Everyone likes to be with someone who is upbeat and happy.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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